

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Currently amended) A computer program product for discovering relationships in an arbitrarily complex environment, comprising a computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, wherein said computer program comprises instructions executable by a processor to:

~~maintain a first component having associated properties for representing in a data model~~ represent a first entity in a system being modeled with a first component of a first type of component in a data model, wherein the first component has a set of fields which contain information relating to the first entity, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the type of component, and wherein the first entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

~~maintain a second component having associated properties for representing~~ represent a second entity in the system being modeled with a second component of a second type of component in the data model, wherein the second component has a set of fields which contain information relating to the second entity, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the type of component, and wherein the second entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

establish, maintain, delete and update one or more relationship discovery rules for analyzing ~~relationships between components in the data model~~ one or more of information contained in one or more fields in the first component and information contained in one or more fields in the second component, one or more of data values associated with the first component and data values associated with the second component, and one or more references to a relationship discovery rule;

select a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules based on the type of component associated with the first component;

associate [[a]] the selected relationship discovery rule with the first component;

apply the selected relationship discovery rule to the second component; [[and]]

~~establish, delete, or update~~ a relationship between the first component and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system, and wherein each

relationship contains a set of fields which contain information pertinent to the association, wherein one field of the set of fields contains information about the type of relationship; and repeat one or more of selecting a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules, associating the selected relationship discovery rule with a first component, applying the selected relationship discovery rule with the second component to establish, delete or update a relationship when changes are made to the data model.

2. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the relationship represents a dependency between the first entity and the second entity.
3. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises a set of criteria.
4. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a criterion from the set of criteria specifies that at least one property of the second component must have a particular value.
5. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a criterion from the set of criteria specifies that the second component must be of a particular component type for the second component to be in the relationship with the first component.
6. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a criterion from the set of criteria specifies that the second component must be in an already established relationship for the second component to be in the relationship with the first component.
7. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the first component and the second component are maintained according to a generic data model.
8. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises an executable script.

9. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable to associate the script with a first component type of which the first component is a member.

10. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable to determine whether the second component should be in a relationship with the first component based on one or more criteria specified in the script.

11. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions executable to store the relationship in a first database table.

12. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein the first component and second component are stored in a second database table separate from the first database table.

13. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the first component and the second component represent entities in an information technology ("IT") environment.

14. (Currently amended) A method for discovering relationships in an arbitrarily complex environment, comprising:

~~maintaining a first component having associated properties for representing in a data model~~ representing a first entity in a system being modeled with a first component of a first type of component in a data model, wherein the first component ~~is arbitrarily~~ has a set of fields, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the type of component, wherein the set of fields are defined based on the data model format and the system being modeled and contains information relating to the first entity, and wherein the first entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

~~maintaining a second component having associated properties for representing a second entity in the system~~ being modeled with a second component of a second type of component, wherein the second component ~~is arbitrarily~~ has a set of fields, wherein at least one field in the set of fields contains information about the type of component, wherein the set of

fields are defined based on the data model format and the system being modeled and contains information relating to the second entity, and wherein the second entity is a logical or physical entity in the arbitrarily complex environment;

establishing, maintaining, deleting and updating one or more relationship discovery rules for analyzing ~~relationships between components in the data model~~ one or more of information contained in one or more fields in the first component and information contained in one or more fields in the second component, one or more of data values associated with the first component and data values associated with the second component, and one or more references to a relationship discovery rule;

select a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules based on the type of component associated with the first component;

associating [[a]] the selected relationship discovery rule with the first component;

applying the selected relationship discovery rule to the second component; [[and]] establishing, ~~deleting, or updating~~ a relationship between the first component and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system, and wherein each relationship contains a set of fields which contain information pertinent to the association, wherein one field of the set of fields contains information about the type of relationship; and

repeating one or more of selecting a relationship discovery rule from the set of relationship discovery rules, associating the selected relationship discovery rule with a first component, applying the selected relationship discovery rule with the second component to establish, delete or update a relationship when changes are made to the data model.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the relationship represents a dependency between the first entity and the second entity.

16. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises a set of criteria.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component further comprises determining if a property of the second component has a value meeting at least one criterion from the set of criteria.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component further comprises determining if the second component is of a particular component type.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component further comprises determining if the second component is in an already established relationship.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising storing the relationship in a first database table.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the first component and second component are stored in a second database table separate from the first database table.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, further comprising storing the relationship in a database table according to a generic data model.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the generic data model models an information technology ("IT") environment.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein maintaining a relationship discovery rule further comprises maintaining an executable script.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, further comprising associating the executable script with the first component.